

The Rev. John Ross, the author of a "History of Corea," is making a name for himself in the literary world. We have now received his new work, just published by Messrs J. & R. Parlane, of Paisley, and titled "The Manchus, or the Reigning Dynasty of China: their Rise and Progress." This valuable work, which takes the shape of an admirably printed octavo volume of 760 pages, is intended as a sequel to the author's History of Corea, and is put forward by Mr. Ross as a picture of the Chinese of to-day. He thus explains this in his preface:

The active motives of three centuries ago are the potent motives of to-day; and the phases of character appearing in this history are exactly similar to those seen in the existing state of Chinese society. The main value of this work is therefore that it represents what does now actually exist; and gives us in the West an opportunity of judging contemporary Chinese, their actual character, and their possible conduct. To one who knows the past history of China, her present resources, the intelligence of her people and their intense nationalism, the natural bravery of her soldiers when well led, and the mental ability of her men, the fact that the country cannot but be a matter of deep interest and solicitude. The ignorant may laugh at and treat her with contempt; but there is a day not very remote when China, by continuing free from serious internal convulsions, will astonish many. We have long known that China must, from her past, assume an attitude of suspicion and defiance towards Russia; and she has long smarted under the humiliation of taxes levied on opium at the dictation and under the compulsion of the British Government. The Chinese will not always tamely submit to that degradation. If we persist in our opinion policy, we shall have to pay for it.

The extension of Christian teaching to this great Empire is of course the main object of the writer, and he believes he will materially hasten that consummation by enlightening the Home people on the history of this people. A few rough maps, or hand outlines, are given to aid the reader; and a full table of contents, meant, we suppose, to take the place of an index, is also given. An index, however, would have been most acceptable. These small matters are important in all works where reference ought to be provided, for it is to valuable books like the present that three-fourths of the volume are taken up with the history of the rise and progress of the Manchu Dynasty; and the other portions treat of the Imperial Family, Officials, the Army, Taxation, and Slavery. The last chapter will at present possess special interest, as the author has evidently carefully studied the law on this subject. We shall look up this readable and valuable book again, and cannot but congratulate Mr. Ross upon his industry and his result.

The following steamers were by the last services advertised to leave England, for China about the probable dates here given:

His Highness, the Duke of Genoa, in the *Yokohama*, is expected at Shanghai from Yokohama about this time. His stay there will extend over a fortnight, after which the Prince will proceed homewards as the *Yokohama*'s commission is nearly expired.

We have been requested to state that, owing to repairs now being carried on in the *Yokohama*, the usual fortnightly service will be held in St. Andrew's Hall, City Hall buildings, at 11 o'clock next Sunday forenoon. There will be no service in the evening on that day.

The Rev. Noah A. McDonald, who was nominated for the office of U. S. Vice Consul at Bangkok by General Halderman has been confirmed by the Secretary of State. The position of Vice Consul is simply one of honor by American law and no compensation is provided for except when the Consul is "temporarily absent or relieved from duty." When the Consul is present at his post the Vice-Consul has no powers or functions whatever. —*San Francisco Advertiser*.

Hiscox & Co.'s Weekly Shipping Report, Pagoda Anchorage, 8th January.

Arrivals During the Week.—Dec. 31, Glenalloch, from Shanghai; Jan. 1, Olympia, from Shanghai; 2, Namco, from Hongkong; 3, Hae San, from Shanghai; 4, Kwang Tung, from Hongkong; 5, Namco, from Hongkong; 6, Magpie, from Hongkong; 7, Sin Nanking, from Shanghai; 8, Richmond, from Hongkong.

Departures During the Week.—Dec. 31, Magpie, for Cruise; Jan. 1, Kwang Tung, for Hongkong; 2, Sin Nanking, for Shanghai; 3, Bander, for New York; 4, Glenalloch, for London; 5, Namco, for Hongkong; 6, Olympia, for London; 7, Hae San, for Shanghai; 8, Kwang Tung, for Shanghai.

Shipping in Port.—Nesior, Magpie, Sin Nanking, Richmond.

Hiscox & Co.'s Weekly Shipping Report, Pagoda Anchorage, 15th January.

Arrivals During the Week.—Jan. 9, Fei Ho, from Hongkong; 13, Hae An, from Shanghai; 13, Polden, from Hongkong.

Departures During the Week.—Jan. 8, Nesior, for London; 11, Sin Nanking, for Shanghai.

Shipping in Port.—Magpie, Richmond, Fei Ho, Liu, Hae An, Olympia, Polden.

Resumé of Visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending Jan. 16.

Day	Chinese	English
Mon. Jan. 10th	closed	closed
Tues. 11th	do.	do.
Wed. 12th	do.	do.
Thurs. 13th	27	431
Fri. 14th	33	415
Sat. 15th	28	182
Sun. 16th	Sunday	Sunday
Grand Total	88	818

(L. & C. Express, Dec. 10.)
The iron ship *Cape Sable*, of Greenock, 1,415 tons, has been given up as lost. She went round the underland in May last, and loaded a cargo of coal for Singapore. She left on the 7th June, and was spoken on the 13th off the south coast, but has never since been heard of. She was commanded by Captain Waite, a native of Berwick, and had a crew numbering twenty-eight men. The owners of the vessel are Messrs Abram Lytle and Sons, Greenock. She is valued at fully £20,000 and the cargo and freight at about £3,000.

The *Romea*, an iron screw-steamer, 155 feet long by 12, built and launched by Messrs Murdoch and Murray, Port Glasgow. This vessel has been built for the Marquis de Campo, and intended for the Manila trade, as a feeder for the line of Spanish mail steamers. This steamer will be fitted up in an excellent style for about twenty first-class passengers, and is intended to carry 480 tons dead weight.

The *Seo-oo*, an iron screw-steamer, has been launched from the shipbuilding-yard of Messrs John Duthie, Sons, and Co., Aberdeen. The vessel has been built to the order of Messrs Matheson and Co., and will be employed in the Chinese coasting trade. Her dimensions are—length 262 feet, breadth 31 feet, total depth 26 feet, and she has a gross tonnage of 1,408 tons, with a carrying capacity of 2,000 tons, and will be fitted up with engines of 135-horse power. The *Pyralis*, an iron screw-steamer of 1,900 tons burden, also for the China coasting trade, has been launched by Messrs Ramsay and Ferguson, of Leith. This vessel has been built to the order of the Wyndham Steamship Company, Limited, of which Messrs Huntley, Gordon, and Co., West Hartlepool, are the managing owners. The shipwrecked seamen's Society's framed testimonials, in recognition of gallant and humane exertions to save life at sea, have been unanimously voted to Lieutenant John T. Bragg, R.N., master of the steamship *Andromeda*, for having rescued the 953 pilgrims abandoned on board the *Yeddo* off Cape Guardafui, in August last.

A large Russian frigate, *The Duke of Edinburgh*, arrived at Kiel on the 18th inst., for a short stay. The vessel is under command of Capt. Novosilsky, carries 10 guns of very heavy calibre, and is to leave on the 12th inst. for the Far East. Her crew consists of 400 men in all. The Admiralty has lately published the list of German men-of-war, which shows that the German navy at present is in definitive possession of the following vessels:—7 ironclad frigates, 5 plain deck corvettes, 11 covered corvettes, 5 plain deck corvettes, 2 gun vessels, 2 gunboats of first class, 10 iron gunboats, 6 torpedo boats, 2 gunboats of second class, 7 dispatch boats, 2 transports, 10 training ships, and 9 steam vessels for harbour service, besides 1 ironclad vessel, 1 barracks ship, and 8 pilot vessels; in all, 93 vessels. Under construction there are, besides the above, 4 plain deck corvettes, 1 ironclad gunboat, and several small vessels. From the above it appears that the navy in fact shows 3 vessels less than existed a year since. The original plan for the foundation of the German navy has not been followed, as by it the German navy at present, or for the year 1881, was intended to consist of 100 ironclads of different dimensions.

THE GERMAN LIEBETAFEL IN THE CITY HALL.
The Concert announced to be given by the members and friends of the German Liebetafel in aid of the City Hall funds took place last night in St. Andrew's Hall. There was a fairly large attendance, all things considered, and those who attended were well repaid for their presence. In addition to the attractive pieces set down to be sung by the Liebetafel, there was the additional attraction of the first appearance of Mr. E. Rennell, of Canton, since his visit to England and Germany. The following is the programme:

1. JAGERS LUT.—CHORUS.—C. F. Astor.
2. PANORAMA SONG.—Mr. E. RENNELL.
3. ROMANZ.—R. SCHUMANN.
4. SERENADE.—CHORUS.—Carl W. Ulrich.
5. BASO SONG.—Mr. R. STEEL.
6. ALBA.—From "Die Zauberflöte"—Mozart.
7. PIANOFORTE DUET.—Mr. E. RENNELL and Dr. Clouth.
8. TARANTELLA.—J. Sch. Raff.

PART II.
1. STANDBY.—CHORUS.—Mozart.
- 2. PANORAMA SONG.—Mr. E. RENNELL.
- 3. STUDY.—J. Sch. Astor.
- 4. SERENADE (F. Minor).—R. Schumann.
- 5. DEB BARY.—(Old English Minstrel).
- 6. ART FOR CHORUS by—J. Sch. Astor.
- 7. PIANOFORTE QUARTETTE.
- 8. MERRY E. RENNELL & R. SCHUMANN.
- 9. Duet and Last Movements.
- 10. from "St. Sebastian".—Beethoven.
- 11. SCHAFER'S CONTRAST.—CHORUS.
- 12. K. Kreutzer.

Without particularising the efforts of the Liebetafel, it may be at once freely admitted that the choruses were all excellent and exceedingly well sung. Dr. Clouth, the enthusiastic and able leader, evidently had the voices under thorough control, and the natural result was that they produced a fine volume of sound, admirably regulated, as to time as well as the matter of light and shade. This latter excellence, it may be remarked, is a distinguishing feature of the Liebetafel, and it may be added, of the pieces generally selected. The quality and power of the voices were especially prominent; and when we presume to draw a comparison between these and the tenor voices that may seem unfavourable, we merely touch on what may be admitted to be the weak point in all choral bodies in which female voices have no place. This to say, was a double leading opinion to be trained with the Liebetafel, the result would be something approaching very near to perfection. In the choruses, however, where power and volume were more in request than delicacy of tone, the effect was really marvellous and highly creditable to the members and to the conductor. It ought to be mentioned that the choruses were sung without accompaniment—a thing which is not quite so easy as it may seem to be. Of the instrumental portion of the programme, the names of the performers are sufficient guarantee of its excellence. In the solo part apart from Mr. E. Rennell, Schumann's splendid music was rendered in a style to equal which one must go to the Continent of Europe. To those who have previously heard the "Canton Quartet," it may sound strangely to say that the Liebetafel's improvement of tone, the effect was really marvellous and highly creditable to the members and to the conductor; but it can be now said with strict truth that he is more unrivalled than ever among amateur pianists. His excellent execution and wonderful attention to light and shade, which before had sufficiently arrested the attention of all lovers of music here, have been as it were intensified; and although the modest amateur will be the first to take exception to the remark, it is fully apparent that Mr. E. Rennell has reached perfection as nearly as any one could who cultivates the art as a pastime and not as a profession. We may add that the pieces were judiciously chosen throughout, and were highly appreciated. This observation applies to the pianoforte duet and quartette, in one or other of which the accomplished amateurs whose names are given above took part. Where all was so good it was difficult to give special mention; but the only encore given was that of the *Ständchen* (Schumann), played by Mr. E. Rennell, when that gentleman in response treated the delighted audience to a beautiful Minuet by Schumann, a new Polish composer. In the Baso Solo (Aria from the *Zauberflöte*), Mr. E. Rennell was assisted by an accompaniment of two pianos and the *Chorus*; and as he sang the grand air "Oh Isis, Oh Osiris," his fine, rich voice told most effectively, especially in the lower ranges. The singer showed perhaps a little nervousness and uncertainty at the outset, but the apogee of the talented accompaniment inspired confidence as the song proceeded, and the singer finished up in a most effective manner, and was heartily applauded. The Concert was a great success, and it is only to be regretted that the hall was not so full, as it ought to have been. In concluding this notice, it may not be out of place to call attention to the praiseworthy feelings shown by our German fellow-residents towards the City Hall. They have done much for the institution outside of their special efforts in common with the other sections of the community; but their frequent endeavours for the benefit of the City Hall are deserving of the most laudatory mention, the more so because they prove the general feeling of accord which animates the community in all matters concerning this useful building.

THE HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.
MEETINGS THIS AFTERNOON.
An extraordinary meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held at the Registered Office of the Company, No. 14, Praya Central, this afternoon, for the purpose of confirming the special resolutions proposed and passed at the last meeting of the shareholders, held on the 31st day of December last. These resolutions were as follows:—
"That this Company do purchase from the Cosmopolitan Dock Company Limited, the leasehold property, premises, buildings, dock, wharves, moles, and other appurtenances, together with the stock-in-trade, of the said Company, for the price or sum of \$400,000 Hongkong currency, and that this Company do purchase the steam launchers, and stock-in-trade of the said Cosmopolitan Dock Company at such price or sum as shall be determined upon by the valuers, one to be appointed by Messrs Russell and Company for the said Cosmopolitan Dock Company and the other by the Directors of this Company, who shall in the event of any disagreement appoint an Umpire who shall determine the matter in dispute; and also that the Company do purchase and carry on the said business at Tai Koo Tze."
And that the said purchase money to be paid by this Company to the said Cosmopolitan Dock Company Limited for the said Dock, premises, stock-in-trade, chattels and effects be raised partly by the issue of two thousand new shares of the value of twenty-five dollars each at the rate of one share for every ten shares of the said Company, and that the Directors may agree upon, but at not less than ten per cent. premium, to which the present shareholders of this Company shall have the preference, and partly by raising a loan of \$200,000, and fifty thousand dollars bearing interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum.
The Hon. W. Keewick presided, and there were also present Messrs Haswell, A. McIver, A. T. Manger, H. Hopkins, and A. Andrie (Directors), Hon. P. Kyrie, and Messrs H. Smith, G. O. Clouston, J. V. Vacher, A. MacClymont, R. Lyall, W. Legge, D. E. Crawford, W. Innes, D. MacCulloch, A. Newton, J. P. de Costa, J. F. Mardfield, and D. Gillies. The shareholders present represented 1297 shares.
The Chairman said: "The special resolution passed at the last extraordinary meeting was to this effect (resolution as given above read). According to the Company's ordinance it is necessary to confirm that resolution, and I now propose that that resolution be confirmed."
Mr. MacCulloch, in support of the resolution, which was unanimously carried.
This was all the business before the meeting.
Immediately after the above meeting was concluded, an extraordinary meeting of shareholders was held for the purpose of passing a special resolution to authorize the Board of Directors to increase the capital of the said Company by the issue of 2,000 Shares of \$125 each, at not less than ten per cent. premium, in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the Articles of Association of the Company.
The Chairman said: "It has been found necessary in order to carry out these changes that the articles of association should be altered, and after the resolution, which I shall just now read to you, the notice will be read, and you will be asked to assent to the resolution, by which Article 15 will be amended so as to provide for the issue of 2,000 new shares of \$125 each."
The Chairman said: "The resolution is as follows:—
"That clause No. 15 be struck out and replaced by the following:—
"The Board of Directors may, with the previous sanction of the shareholders in general meeting, increase the capital of the Company by the issue of 2,000 new shares of \$125 each, at not less than ten per cent. premium."
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